



**California Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes, July 9, 2003**

**Location**

Medal of Honor Hall, California Department of Veterans Affairs, 1227 O Street, Sacramento, California, 95814

**Participants**

**DVBE**

Alison Boyle, Larry Brooks, Jerry Caton, Don Gonneville, Ken Jackson, Floyd Knox, Bob Mulz, John Rak, John Robbins, Francis Trottier, Larry Turner, and A.J. Wilson

**CDVA**

Secretary Maurice Johannessen, George Andries, Bruce Thiessen, Glen Halsey, Sheryl Schmidt, and Steve Dakota

**DGS**

Pat Jones

**Special Guests**

James Stanfield

**Observers**

Michael Greene

**Members Absent**

Allen Amaro, Bill Bruckner, Kevin O'Connor, and Timothy Voors

**Welcome and Introductions**

Glen Halsey, Chief, Veterans Services Division (VSD), California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) opened the meeting at 10:17 a.m. and welcomed the Council and attendees.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Don Gonneville, DVBE co-chair, asked if the council had an opportunity to review the minutes from May 15, 2003. Bob Mulz said there was an incorrect figure that needed to be changed. Mr. Mulz stated that the number of troops returning to San Diego should have been 100,000, not 10,000. Mr. Gonneville said it would be corrected. Mr. Mulz also said that a reference to a faulty fire alarm should be changed to problems with TV cable and a nurse call system. Minutes were approved with the changes by the Council at 10:24 a.m. Floor was then turned over to George Andries, veterans homes construction, CDVA.

### **CDVA Construction Projects: DVBE Participation**

Mr. Andries gave an overview of various upcoming construction projects, including the Redding Veterans Cemetery, a large project coming up for bid in September. Mr. Andries said it was a beautiful site. Larry Turner asked if it would be possible to get DVBE architectural design firms involved. Mr. Halsey said that there was a DVBE estimator working on drawings for the Redding Cemetery project. Alison Boyle asked Mr. Andries if he could provide Council Members with dollar facts and figures of the amount that went to DVBEs on CDVA construction projects. Mr. Andries said he didn't have that information with him. Ms. Boyle stated, "You're not coming to the table with the facts and dollar figures." Mr. Andries said he needs to know what statistical numbers the Council wants. He also said that he and Mr. Halsey would meet with DGS and get the information the council would like to have. Mr. Andries told the council he would need structured requirements in order to prepare a statistics report. He asked the council to clearly tell him what information they want. Mr. Gonneville suggested the council form a construction committee to make sure the process of obtaining the desired information continues. Mr. Gonneville also said that once the committee is formed, the council will let Mr. Andries know who the point of contact is. Ms. Boyle attempted to put forth a motion that CDVA provide monthly reports on where contracting dollars are going, but was stopped by Secretary Maurice Johannessen who said, "No, these groups cannot get together to get this information." He also stated that CDVA has suddenly become a "punching bag." Ms. Boyle asked Mr. Johannessen why the council couldn't get the same information that is reported to the Governor's Office. She also told the secretary that she felt he had "shut her down" when she attempted to make a motion that monthly reports be given to the council from CDVA. Mr. Gonneville said the motion would be discussed, as "we don't shut anyone down." Larry Turner gave Secretary Johannessen a copy of a letter he had sent him in June and told the council he would cover it later in the meeting. Mr. Gonneville thanked the secretary for coming to the meeting and told him he was welcome anytime. Mr. Johannessen said, "It's critical all groups work together and speak

as one voice.” He assured the council that he would do everything he could to provide them with the information they need. He then apologized to Ms. Boyle for making her feel as if he “shut her down.” Ms. Boyle accepted his apology and shook his hand. Mr. Johannessen left the meeting at 10:54 a.m. Mr. Andries once again suggested that the council come up with a consensus on the information they wanted reported to them. He then stated, “I’ve been to four of these meetings and the same thing happens every time...nothing gets done.” Ms. Boyle asked him what exactly he was in charge of and how long he had been with the state. Mr. Andries said, “Two years.” Ms. Boyle said that her concern was that there is law in place that certain information be reported on a regular basis to the Governor’s Office and that “you should be aware of this law.” Francis Trottier brought up what he called a “violation of law”; outreach advertising with a 14 day advance notice to DVBEs before bid information is released. He said that it was being cut down to 7 days. Mr. Andries told the council to give him a detailed report on the information they want. He stated that he needed it in “an organized fashion”. He said, “I’m not trying to duck things. I will work on this, I will work with you all.” He then stated that “organization gets results.” John Robbins asked Mr. Andries if he had read the state audit on DVBE participation with state agencies. Mr. Andries said that he hadn’t. Mr. Andries thanked the council and left the meeting at 11:07 a.m. Bruce Thiessen, deputy secretary CDVA, addressed the council at 11:08 a.m. He handed out a printed report on veterans homes contracts. There was a brief discussion on tightening the “good faith effort.” Mr. Halsey said that he would like to be able to email/call/alert every DVBE the minute a project/bid opportunity comes up. Mr. Thiessen said that he wanted to do “spot checking”; contact DVBEs reported to have been used at random and confirm their participation. Bob Mulz suggested taking it a step further and confirm the dollar amount.

### **Election of New Members**

Mr. Gonneville addressed the council at 11:25 a.m. and announced Larry Brooks and A.J. Wilson as new members. He also said that Bill Bruckner would resign from the council as he was unable to attend the meetings. The council voted and approved the removal of Mr. Bruckner from the council. Mr. Gonneville said that Mr. Bruckner was invited back should he become available and wish to return. Mr. Gonneville introduced James Stanfield to the council. Mr. Stanfield had applied to be a council member. He addressed the group and said it was an honor to apply. The council asked him several questions and then he left the room so that a vote on his membership could be held. The council were all in favor with no opposition to his membership. Mr. Stanfield returned and was congratulated as a new council member. Mr. Gonneville then went over the other applicants (who were not in attendance). The council voted on Mike Johnson. All approved, John Rak abstained voting.

A vote on Gene Farnsworth was taken and all approved. Robert Yaap, the final applicant was voted upon. Mr. Trottier opposed and Mr. Rak abstained. The council approved Mr. Yaap as a council member.

Sheryl Schmidt, deputy secretary for women's veterans affairs, CDVA, spoke at 11:30 a.m. Ms. Schmidt said she felt automation would speed along the notification process for contract and bid opportunities. She said she would like to see an email list created. Ms. Schmidt said the council should use the website to draw more people into the DVBE network. She also said that participation by more female Veterans was needed. There was a brief discussion led Pat Jones of DGS about searching for bid opportunities and DVBE's on the DGS website. She explained that one must be very precise with their wording when doing a search.

Adjournment For Lunch At 11:50 a.m.

### **Legislative Update**

The meeting reconvened at 12:47 p.m. Pat Jones handed out a printed report called Small Business and DVBE Related Bills. Ms. Jones went over the report with the council. After her report, Ken Jackson asked about AB 722, which would authorize DGS to utilize reverse auctions for the acquisition of goods, services, and information technology. This resulted in a heated discussion with council members stating fears that this would drive business out of state; would exclude DVBEs; and would result in large corporations taking over the state. Ms. Jones said she had no idea AB 722 would cause so much concern and that she would definitely convey the message to her department. This discussion ended at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Gonneville discussed an article written by Steve Dakota that was handed out to the council. In it, Mr. Dakota interviews Ms. Jones about encouraging state agencies to contract with DVBEs. This article will be used as a press release or marketing tool for DVBEs.

### **Reconstituting Committees**

Mr. Gonneville told the council what a big job they have ahead of them and how important it is for them to speak as one voice. Mr. Gonneville suggested the council not wait until the next meeting to reconstitute committees, but rather do it now. Ms. Boyle suggested a procurement committee. Mr. Gonneville asked for volunteers and Mr. Mulz, Ms. Boyle, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Brooks came forth. It was decided that Steve Dakota would be the committee's liaison from CDVA.

Afternoon Break At 1:50 p.m.

Reconvene At 2:02 p.m.

### **Reconstituting Committees Continued...**

Mr. Gonneville asked the council which committees they wanted to participate in and the following is the result:

**Outreach** Jerry Caton, John Rak, Ken Jackson, and John Robbins

**Legislative** Tim Voors and Alison Boyle

**State Agency/DVBE Issues** A.J. Williams and Floyd Knox

Mr. Trottier said that he would not appear on any committee just yet. He also stated that he planned to hold a press conference in two weeks to “take CDVA and DGS down a peg.” Mr. Trottier said that DGS “has bent over backwards to prevent any fruition.” He also stated that he was going “lone wolf.” Mr. Trottier said he was willing to meet with DGS to correct the “violation of law.” Mr. Gonneville said he felt that working within the system was better than working from the outside, and “I encourage you to work within.” Mr. Trottier said he would wait to see what happens within the next two weeks.

### **Open Forum**

Mr. Turner took the floor and handed out copies of the letter he presented to Secretary Johannessen earlier in the meeting. He suggested a stronger letter be drafted from CDVA and Secretary Johannessen, instead of standard form letters. Mr. Gonneville suggested the Council write a letter to Mr. Johannessen requesting the secretary write a letter with a stronger position on obtaining contracting dollars reports. A motion was made and seconded, with all Council members in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

### **Date For Next Meeting**

Mr. Gonneville announced the dates for the next two meetings:

- September 17<sup>th</sup>
- November 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Committee Chairpersons**

Outreach Committee Chair- Jerry Caton  
Legislation Committee Chair- Alison Boyle  
Procurement Committee Chair- Alison Boyle

### **Closing Remarks**

Pat Jones thanked the council for their candor and concerns on AB 722. She said, "I do understand your concerns and I'll take them with me."

Mr. Halsey thanked the council and others for their participation. He said that each meeting gets better and more productive. He said, "I look to you for your guidance, tell me your needs, what I can do...I really want to see this program excel."

Meeting Adjourned At 3:01p.m.